

appears by the help of the *Microscope*, to be very many degrees smaller than the most acute eye is able to perceive without it. And though one of these six-branched Stars appear'd here below much of the shape described in the Third *Figure* of the Eighth *Scheme*; yet I am very apt to think, that could we have a sight of one of them through a *Microscope* as they are generated in the Clouds before their Figures are vitiated by external accidents, they would exhibit abundance of curiosity and neatness there also, though never so much magnify'd: For since I have observ'd the Figures of *Salts* and *Minerals* to be some of them so exceeding small, that I have scarcely been able to perceive them with the *Microscope*, and yet have they been regular, and since (as far as I have yet examin'd it) there seems to be but one and the same cause that produces both these effects, I think it not irrational to suppose that these pretty figur'd Stars of *Snow*, when at first generated might be also very regular and exact.

## III.

*Several kinds of Figures in Water frozen.*

Putting fair Water into a large capacious Vessel of *Glass*, and exposing it to the cold, I observ'd after a little time, several broad, flat, and thin *laminae*, or plates of *Ice*, crossing the bulk of the water and one another very irregularly, onely most of them seem'd to turn one of their edges towards that side of the *Glass* which was next it, and seem'd to grow, as 'twere from the inside of the Vessel inwards towards the middle, almost like so many blades of *Fern*. Having taken several of these plates out of water on the blade of a Knife, I observ'd them figur'd much after the manner of *Herring bones*, or *Fern blades*, that is, there was one bigger stem in the middle like the back-bone, and out of it, on either side, were a multitude of small *stiriae*, or *icicles*, like the smaller bones, or the smaller branches in *Fern*, each of these branches on the one side, were parallel to all the rest on the same side, and all of them seem'd to make an angle with the stem, towards the top, of sixty degrees, and towards the bottom or root of this stem, of 120. See the fourth *Figure* of the 8. *Plate*.

I observ'd likewise several very pretty varieties of Figures in Water, frozen on the top of a broad flat Marble-stone, expos'd to the cold with a little Water on it, some like feathers, some of other shapes, many of them were very much of the shape express'd in the fifth *Figure* of the 8. *Scheme*, which is extremely differing from any of the other Figures.

I observ'd likewise, that the shootings of *Ice* on the top of Water, beginning to freeze, were in streight *prismatical* bodies much like those of *rock-peter*, that they crost each other usually without any kind of order or rule; that they were always a little higher then the surface of the Water that lay between them; that by degrees those *interjacent* spaces would be fill'd with *Ice* also, which usually would be as high as the surface of the rest.

In flakes of *Ice* that had been frozen on the top of Water to any considerable